

Message Text

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10

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04

CEA-01 AGRE-00 L-03 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 /081 W

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R 151512Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8575

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, DR

SUBJ: MEAT QUOTAS

REF: STATE 252290

1. EMBOFFS DELIVERED COPY OF PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION TO LIC ROBERTO MARTINEZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DOMINICAN CENTER FOR EXPORT PROMOTION (CEDOPEX), ON OCT 13. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION SINCE HE HAD REQUESTED A COPY AND CLARIFICATION FROM AMBASSADOR HORACIO VICIOSO SOTO IN WASHINGTON. CEDOPEX CONCERNED ABOUT IMPOSITION OF MEAT QUOTAS AND ITS EFFECT ON THE DR'S MEAT EXPORTS BUT GODR DID NOT WANT TO COMMENT PUBLICLY UNTIL THE FULL IMPLICATIONS OF THE QUOTAS WERE KNOWN, MARTINEZ STATED. CEDOPEX DID NOT WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SPECULATION RAISED IN EL CARIBE, THE COUNTRY'S SECOND LEADING NEWSPAPER, HE ADDED.

2. PUBLIC REACTION HAS BEEN STRONG AND NEGATIVE. EL CARIBE, IN A FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE OCT 14 QUOTED THE VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT OF THE INTERAMERICAN CONFEDERATION OF CATTLEMEN (CIAGA) AND THE DIRECTORS OF THE CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS OF THE EASTERN REGION OF THE COUNTRY. LATTER SPECULATED EFFECTS RANGING FROM A
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TOTAL COLLAPSE OF THE DOMINICAN CATTLE INDUSTRY TO A "BOOMERANG

AGAINST THE US SINCE IT WOULD SUFFER A DROP IN ITS EXPORTS OF PREGNANT COWS, BREEDING BULLS, FROZEN SEMEN, AND FEED AND MEDICINE FOR CATTLE IN LATIN AMERICA." THEY EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT DR WOULD HAVE TO LOOK FOR OTHER MARKETS SINCE IT CANNOT CONSUME ALL THE MEAT IT PRODUCES.

3. THE MEASURE WAS ALSO SEEN BY THEM AS A POLITICAL MOVE TO PACIFY ONE SECTOR IN THE US THAT WOULD "GRAVELY AFFECT" THE DR. THIS QUOTA, COUPLED WITH THE RECENT SUGAR TARIFF, WAS VIEWED AS DETRIMENTAL TO INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE.

4. ON OCT 13 SEVERAL DOMINICAN SENATORS DENOUNCED THE US MEASURE BEFORE THE SENATE AND ACCUSED PRESIDENT FORD OF BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR THE POOR ECONOMIC SITUATION OF SUGAR-AND CATTLE-EXPORTING COUNTRIES. THE SENATOR FOR THE NATIONAL DISTRICT WAS QUOTED AS SAYING, "WE SHOULD RAISE OUR VOICES TO ASK THE UNITED STATES IF WE ARE OR ARE NOT ITS FRIEND."

5. COMMENT: REACTION OF DIRECTOR OF GODR EXPORT PROMOTION OFFICE TO PROCLAMATION OF US MEAT IMPORT LIMITATION, AS REPORTED PARA 1 ABOVE, HAS BEEN RESTRAINED. ALSO, LATEST INFO THAT MEAT PRICES IN US HAS RISEN BY TWO CENTS A POUND CAME AS WELCOME NEWS TO LOCAL MEAT PRODUCERS. HOWEVER, IMPOSITION OF A NEW RESTRICTIVE MEASURE AFFECTING AN IMPORTANT DOMINICAN EXPORT COMMODITY VIEWED BY DOMINICANS IN CONTEXT RECENT INCREASE IN US DUTIES ON SUGAR, WITHHOLDING OF CCC CREDIT AND OTHER CONTINUING PRESSURES ON DR TO PAY UP DEBT ARREARAGES--MEASURES WHICH INTERPRETED BY DOMINICANS AS REFLECTING LESSENERED US CONCERN WITH CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH DR AND DECREASING INTEREST IN ITS WELFARE. FEELING IN SOME CIRCLES HAS BEEN GROWING THAT DOMINICANS MUST MOVE TOWARD LESSER DEGREE OF DEPENDENCE ON US AND GREATER IDENTIFICATION WITH THIRD WORLD POSITIONS. SPECULATION CURRENT THAT SUCH TREND EVIDENCED BY RECENT ESTABLISHMENT OF DR RELATIONS WITH MOROCCO AND EGYPT AND RUMORED INTENT TO EXPAND RELATIONS WITH OTHER LDCS.

7. RE PARA 1 REFTTEL, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL OBTAIN SOONEST INSTRUCTIONS RE CONSULTATIONS WITH DR, SO THAT WE CAN PUT IN TRUE PERSPECTIVE FOR DOMINICAN OFFICIALS AND PUBLIC THE REAL IMPACT OF THE MEAT IMPORT LIMITATION ON THE DR. (HOEPEFULLY, THE IMPOSED QUOTA FOR DR WILL NOT DIVERGE SUBSTANTIALY FROM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT QUOTA.)
AXELROD

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Message Attributes

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